

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 04-05-16

Issued at Dillingham, Alaska
July 29, 2016

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m.
August 1, 2016

Expiration Date: June 30, 2017
unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens the RC501 registration permit hunt for caribou in portions of Game Management Units 17(A) and 17(C) at 12:01 a.m., August 1, 2016. The season will run through March 31, 2017. However, that portion of the RC501 hunt area on the Nushagak Peninsula south of the Igushik River, Tuklung River and the Tuklung Hills, west to Tvativak Bay will only be open under the RC501 permit August 1-September 30, 2016. The bag limit for caribou under the RC501 permit is two caribou. Hunters are reminded that only two caribou per regulatory year can be taken under a state permit in Unit 17.

Permits will be available online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or in person at department offices in Anchorage, Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Homer, King Salmon, Palmer, and Soldotna.

All other caribou hunting regulations for Unit 17 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.025(12), Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Caribou**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(12)

Unit 17(A), all drainages that Terminate east of Right Hand Point, but not including the Nushagak Peninsula south of the Tuklung Hills, west to Tvativak Bay

Resident Hunters:

2 caribou by registration permit only

August 1 – March 31

Nonresident Hunters:

No Open Season

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Remainder of Unit 17(C), but not including the Nushagak Peninsula south of the Igushik River, Tuklung River and the Tuklung Hills

Resident Hunters:

2 caribou by registration permit only

August 1 – March 31

Nonresident Hunters:

No Open Season

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That portion of Unit 17(A) and 17(C) consisting of the Nushagak Peninsula south of the Igushik River, Tuklung River and the Tuklung Hills, west to Tvativak Bay

Resident Hunters:

2 caribou by registration permit only

August 1 – Sept 30

Nonresident Hunters:

No Open Season

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All other caribou hunting regulations remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Neil Barten
Dillingham Area Wildlife Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The caribou hunting season in the RC501 permit hunt area remained closed for many years to allow caribou from the Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd (NPCH) to increase in number and provide a harvestable surplus of animals. Harvest has occurred under the federal registration permit hunt (FC1702) in a portion of the RC501 hunt area for many years. However, a June 2016 photo census of this herd determined a minimum count of 1,230 caribou, far exceeding the optimal population size of 750. Recent low-snow winters have prevented hunters from accessing this herd on its traditional winter range under the federal registration permit hunt, and thus the population has increased far beyond what we believe the habitat can sustain long term. This emergency action will allow hunters throughout the state a chance to harvest caribou in the RC501 hunt area with the goal of increasing the harvest on this population of caribou.

DISTRIBUTION:

This emergency order is distributed to the recipients listed below. Copies are available from Department of Fish and Game offices in Anchorage, Juneau, Dillingham, and Fairbanks.

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5. Boards Support Section, Executive Director Board of Game
 - Field Offices: Bethel, Dillingham
 - Fish and Game Advisory Committees, Chairman
 - Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee
 - Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee
6. Division of Subsistence, Anchorage Regional Supervisor
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- 12. BBNA, Dillingham
- 13. News Media:
 - Statewide: APRN
 - Dillingham: KDLG Radio, KRUP Radio, Bristol BayTimes